## **ABSTRACT**

A pench-top pill counter accurately and automatically counts a wide
variety of shapes and sizes of pharmaceutical pills and capsules, having a variety of
coatings. A rotating bowl, periodically shaken during rotation, is combined with a
fixed, flared spiral guide ramp causing pills to distribute individually on an annular
ledge in the bowl. The pills are dispensed from the bowl onto a sloped slide and
counted at the bottom of the slide by an optical counter. The micro-computer
determines an optimum speed and shake algorithm for the bowl, based on the
characteristics such as the size and shape of the pills, so that the pills distribute
individually and only one pill at a time passes the counter.